REMARKS

Rejection of claims 1, 3-5 and 20 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Obendorf in view of Menzies

The Examiner rejected claims 1, 3-5 and 20 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Obendorf in view of Menzies. Each of these claims is addressed below.

Claim 1

Claim 1 recites:

1. An apparatus comprising:
    at least one processor;
    a memory coupled to the at least one processor;
    class configuration data comprising a plurality of entries residing in the memory, each class configuration entry including a key-value pair, wherein the key includes information relating to a selected processing context and the value includes configuration data for a class in the selected processing context, wherein the key comprises context information appended to a class identifier; and
    an object oriented class replacement mechanism residing in the memory and executed by the at least one processor that generates an instance of a selected class by using a key that includes context information to access the appropriate entry in the class configuration data.

In rejecting claim 1, the Examiner maps the reference table in FIG. 3B of Obendorf on the "class configuration data" in claim 1, maps the TableName object ID on the "key" in claim 1, maps the process of creating the table object on the "information relating to" in claim 1, maps the class ID in the table on the "value" in claim 1, and further maps the class ID in the table on the "configuration data for a class in the selected processing context." Applicant respectfully asserts that the table in Obendorf does not

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read on the class configuration data expressly recited in claim 1 for the many reasons detailed below.

The table in FIG. 3B of Obendorf does contain key-value pairs. However, the key in Obendorf is the CLSID column, while the value is the TableName column. This is clearly stated in Obendorf at col. 5 lines 26-37, which states:

> However, if the client requests object creation by the RDBMS 126 using the present invention, the client sends a ClassID 218 as an argument to the creation call. The ClassID is a 128 bit GUID as indicated in the Mocrosoft™ Common Object Module (COM) specification and is passed through to the COM API CoCreateInstance(). CoCreateInstance locates the class factory (and thus constructor) for the object associated with the ClassID 218 in table 240, loads the class factory into memory, and invokes the constructor corresponding to the ClassID 218, which creates the object in question.

It is clear from this language in Obendorf that the ClassID 218 in table 240 is the "key", and the class name listed under the TableName column is the value. In the rejection, the Examiner maps the TableName column on the key in the claim, and maps the CLSID column on the value in the claim. This mapping is backwards. The term GUID in Obendorf stands for "global unique identifier". The GUID in the CLSID column is passed as a key to the COM API CoCreateInstance(). CoCreateInstance locates the class factory by using the CLSID key to locate the corresponding value in the table 240. The corresponding value is the class factory that corresponds to the CLSID. This makes it perfectly clear that the CLSID 218 in FIG. 3B of Obendorf corresponds to a key, while the TableName column is the corresponding value for the key, not the other way around, as stated by the Examiner. Because the mapping of key and value in the rejection is backwards compared to the express teachings of Obendorf, the Examiner's rejection is in error.

In the rejection, the Examiner refers to the language quoted above at col. 5 lines 20-37 of Obendorf. In this explanation, the Examiner maps the class factory in Obendorf

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on the context information in the claim. Note, however, that the key includes configuration information relating to a selected processing context. As stated above, the CLSID column in table 240 in FIG. 3B of Obendorf is the key, not the TableName column. For this reason, the Examiner's mapping of the class factory in the TableName column on the context information in claim 1 is clearly in error. Because the CLSID (key) is used to find the corresponding class factory (value) in the TableName column, the Examiner's assertion that the TableName column corresponds to a key is in error.

The Examiner maps the process of creating the table object in Obendorf on the "selected processing context" in claim 1. This mapping makes no sense. How can a process of creating a table read on a selected processing context? It can't. The Examiner's rejection is therefore in error.

In the rejection, the Examiner states in the last three lines of the only full paragraph of page 3 of the office action:

> Obendorf further discloses *the, key comprises context information appended to a class identifier* (Fig. 3B). Obendorf does not explicitly teach wherein the key comprises context information appended to a class identifier.

These two statements contradict each other, and make the Examiner's rejection unclear. In the first statement the Examiner says that Obendorf discloses this limitation, and in the very next statement the Examiner says that Obendorf does not teach this limitation. Well, which is it? The Examiner's rejection is unclear, and the Examiner has therefore failed to establish a prima facie case of obviousness for claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a).

The Examiner states:

> Menzies discloses attaching key properties to a qualifier key to each property that constructs the key for the class (col. 9, lines 38-45).

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The Examiner then states that it would have been obvious to combine Obendorf and Menzies "so as to obtain the attached to the key component of the key for the class of object", citing col. 9 lines 7-62 of Menzies. This rationale for combining Obendorf and Menzies makes no sense. The limitation the Examiner is attempting to address is "wherein the key comprises context information appended to a class identifier." Yet the Examiner does not even say that it would be obvious for the key to comprise context information appended to a class identifier based on the combination of Obendorf and Menzies. Instead, the Examiner states the combination would be obvious "so as to obtain the attached to the key component of the key for the class of object." Not only is this atrocious English, it does not address the specific claim limitation in question. For this reason, the Examiner has failed to establish a prima facie case of obviousness for claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) based on the combination of Obendorf and Menzies.

Menzies teaches "attaching a qualifier named 'key' to each property that constitutes the key for the class" at col. 9 lines 40-41. An example is shown in the Disk class listing at col. 9, lines 48-55. In this example, the string Volume is designated as a key by preceding the property Volume with the qualifier "[key]", as shown in Menzies. Menzies thus teaches designating <u>properties within classes</u> as keys. Nowhere does Menzies teach or suggest a key that comprises context information *appended to a class identifier*. In Menzies, the [key] qualifier is used to precede a <u>property in a class</u>, *not a class identifier*. In addition, the key in Menzies does not include context information. The express teachings in Menzies teach away from appending context information to a class identifier. In addition, the key in Obendorf is stored in the CLSID column, which is a globally unique identifier that does not include context information. For these reasons, neither Obendorf, Menzies, nor their combination teach or suggest a key that comprises context information appended to a class identifier, as recited in claim 1.

To establish a prima facie case of obviousness for claim 1, the Examiner would have to show a key that comprises context information appended to a class identifier.

The key in Obendorf is the CLSID, which contains no context information. Even if one assumes the TableName is a key, as stated by the Examiner, the Examiner would have to state why one of ordinary skill in the art would be motivated to appended context information to the class identifier shown in the TableName column. The [key] qualifier in Menzies precedes a property within a class, not a class identifier. Because the Examiner has not shown teachings in Obendorf, Menzies or their combination that read on a key that comprises context information appended to a class identifier, the Examiner has failed to establish a prima facie case for rejecting claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) based on the combination of Obendorf and Menzies.

Neither Obendorf nor Menzies nor their combination teach class configuration data that includes entries that include a key-value pair, where the key includes information relating to a selected processing context and the value includes configuration data for a class in the selected processing context. Neither Obendorf nor Menzies nor their combination teach a key that comprises context information appended to a class identifier. These are specific limitations in claim 1 that are not met by Obendorf, Menzies, nor their combination. For these reasons claim 1 is allowable over the combination of Obendorf and Menzies. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the Examiner's rejection of claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a).

Claims 3 and 4

Claims 3 and 4 depend on claim 1, which is allowable for the reasons given above. As a result, claims 3 and 4 are allowable as depending on an allowable independent claim.

<u>Claims 5 and 20</u>

Claims 5 and 20 both recite a key generator mechanism that generates the key from a class identifier and from the context information. In rejecting these claims, the Examiner merely cites to FIG. 3B of Obendorf as allegedly teaching this limitation. Nowhere does FIG. 3B of Obendorf teach or suggest a key generator mechanism as recited in claims 5 and 20. For this reason, claims 5 and 20 are allowable over the combination of Obendorf and Menzies. In addition, claim 5 depends on claim 1 which is allowable for the reasons given above. As a result, claim 5 is allowable as depending on an allowable independent claim. Claim 20 contains a limitation "wherein the key comprises the context information appended to a text string class identifier", which is not taught or suggested in the combination of Obendorf and Menzies for the many reasons given above in the discussion of claim 1. As a result, claim 20 is allowable for the reasons given above for the allowability of claim 1. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the Examiner's rejection of claims 5 and 20 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a).

<u>Rejection of claims 6-8, 10-11, 13-15, 17-19 and 21-23 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being</u>
<u>unpatentable over Obendorf in view of Menzies and further in view of Judge</u>

The Examiner rejected claims 6-8, 10-11, 13-15, 17-19 and 21-23 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Obendorf in view of Menzies and further in view of Judge. Each of these claims is addressed below.

<u>Claims 6, 13 and 21</u>

Claims 6 and 13 both include the limitation "wherein the key comprises context information appended to a class identifier" recited in claim 1. Therefore, for the reasons given above with respect to claim 1, claims 6 and 13 are likewise allowable over the combination of Obendorf, Menzies and Judge. Claim 21 similarly includes the limitation "wherein the key comprises context information appended to a text string class identifier", as recited in claim 20, which is addressed above. Thus, claim 21 is allowable for the same reasons given above for the allowability of claim 20.

<u>Claims 7-8, 10-11, 14-15, 17-19, and 22-23</u>

Each of claims 7-8, 10-11, 14-15, 17-19, and 22-23 depend on independent claims that are allowable for the reasons given above. As a result, claims 7-8, 10-11, 14-15, 17-19, and 22-23 are allowable as depending on allowable independent claims.

Rejection of claim 12 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Obendorf in view of Menzies, Judge, and White

The Examiner rejected claim 12 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Obendorf in view of Menzies, Judge, and White. The rejection of claim 12 includes many of the same faults as the rejection of claim 1, which is addressed above. For this reason, claim 12 is allowable for the reasons given above for the allowability of claim 1.

There are so many errors in the rejection of claim 12 that applicant's attorney is not going to take the time to list them all. A few of the errors are listed below to illustrate how bad the rejection is. The second paragraph of the rejection repeats verbatim much of the first paragraph. This appears to be the result of an erroneous attempt to cut and paste from a different rejection. In addressing the limitations in claim 12, the Examiner has failed to address ANY of the claim limitations that were changed by the amendment filed on 12/02/03. The Examiner has failed to address limitation (1) that recites: generating a key that comprises information relating to a current processing context appended to a class identifier for the existing class. In addition, when addressing limitations 2 and 3 in the rejection, the Examiner erroneously addresses the old language, prior to the amendment filed on 12/02/03. For these reasons, the Examiner has failed to establish a prima facie case of obviousness for claim 12 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a).

None of the cited art, either alone or in combination, teach or suggest the six detailed steps recited in claim 12. For this reason, claim 12 is clearly allowable over the combination of Obendorf, Menzies, Judge and White, and applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the Examiner's rejection of claim 12.

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General Comments

The Examiner has now issued FIVE non-final office actions. Each response by applicant has been met by another non-final office action, with the Examiner shifting to a new grounds of rejection each time. Enough is enough. The Examiner has caused applicant a great deal of unnecessary delay and expense in responding to the various office actions. It is fundamentally unfair for the Examiner to have six bites at the apple when the applicant gets only two. For this reason, applicant forcefully requests of the Examiner and his supervisor to do the right thing and issue this case. Another lousy rejection will result in immediate appeal.
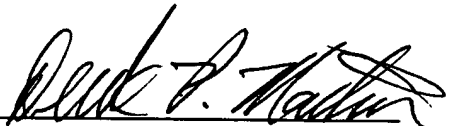
Invitation to the Examiner

Should the Examiner decide to maintain any or all of the pending rejections, the Examiner is invited to more specifically map the limitations in the prior art on each and every limitation in applicant's claims, and to clearly lay out rationale for combining references under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), so the Examiner's rejections may be adequately addressed in detail on appeal.

Conclusion

In summary, none of the cited prior art, either alone or in combination, teach, support, or suggest the unique combination of features in applicant's claims presently on file. Therefore, applicant respectfully asserts that all of applicant's claims are allowable. Such allowance at an early date is respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned if this would in any way advance the prosecution of this case.

Respectfully submitted,

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